

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned
Page 4

A marked up copy of amended claim 40 is provided in Appendix A entitled "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.**" As a convenience to the Examiner, a complete set of the claims, as amended herein, is also attached to this Amendment as Appendix B.

2. *Support for the amendment to the specification*

Support for the amendments to the claims can be found throughout the specification, the drawings, and the claims as originally drafted. For example, support for amended claim 40 and new claims 65-66 can be found on, e.g., page 22, lines 13-25 of the specification. Support for claims 67 and 75-76 can be found on, e.g., page 48, lines 3-16 of the specification. Support for claims 68, 75 and 77 can be found, e.g., on page 48, lines 17 to page 49, line 16 of the specification. Support for new claims 69-74 can be found, e.g., in originally filed claims 4-9, respectively. Support for new claim 78 can be found, e.g., on the sentence bridging pages 4-5 of the specification. No new matter is added by this Amendment.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: (415) 576-0200
Fax: (415) 576-0300
MEH
SF 1273763 v1

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

40. (Amended) A method of enhancing lignification in a vascular plant, comprising suppressing expression of an AGL8-like gene product comprising a polypeptide at least 50% identical to SEQ ID NO:2 [expression] in said vascular plant, [whereby lignification is enhanced] thereby enhancing lignification.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO